

GUILDHALL
LONDON.

The Famous History of the Valiant

London Prentice.



Printed for J. Hatch, at the Black Horse, in the Strand.
The of London being the first



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THE
Famous History
OF
The VALIANT
London-Prentice,

SHEWING
His Noble EXPLOITS

at Home and Abroad:

His LOVE and great SUCCESS.

Very Pleasant and Delightful.

Written for Encouragement of Youth.

By J. S.

This may be Printed, R. P.

Printed for J. Back, at the Black-Tree on the middle of London-Bridge, 1692.

Faint handwritten text, possibly "Faint".



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The HISTORY of the
London-Prentice, &c.



An Account of his Birth, Education and
early Valour, &c.

In times past, there was Born in the
Famous County of Chester, a young
Man of excellent Beauty, promising ve-
ry great things, even in his Infancy; to
promote which, his Parents being weal-
thy, spared not to educate or bring him
up in the best manner the Country would
afford, nor did he as he grew up fall in a-
ny thing their expectation. In Learning
he was well versed, and in many other mat-
ters, but nothing so enflamed his mind
as the desire of exercising himself in feats
of Arms, and was the more incited there-
to by Reading the Famous Adventures
of Knight-Errants, how successful
they were in overcoming Giants and
Mon-

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Monsters, and rescuing beautiful Ladies from death and misery; and as these Heroick thoughts increased, so he found his strength abound. Nature not sparing to give him many Limbs and an able Body, so that in his Childish Encounters those that far surpassed him in years, were not able to resist his force, nor come near him in Wrestling, Jumping, Running, casting the Bar, Stone or Dart; which made not his Parents but a little proud of such a blessing, whom they had named Aurelius, as one that promised great things.

C H A P. II.

An Account of his first Adventures and Enterprizes, where he won the Virgins Hearts, &c.

When Aurelius was at the Age of fourteen, he went to a Wake or Merry-meeting, to recreate himself with other Youths of the Country; where he so well behaved himself, that his courage, activity, strength and beauty, gained great applause, and took so mainly with the Virgins, that some of them began to feel
a fe.

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a Fever in their Minds, which Cupid, who at such Merry-meetings is seldom wanting in promoting the Business of Love, failed not to increase: but he as yet not capable of feeling the Flame of Passion that way, regarded not their amorous glances, nor understood the silent Language of enflamed Hearts, though it notwithstanding, created him those Enemies that were causelessly jealous of him, as a most dangerous Rival, and who gathered their Reason for it, from the many praises their Mistresses bestowed on him in his absence.

C H A P. III.

How the fair Lucinda fell in Love with him; how those she despised for his sake, conspired against him.

Our Youth increasing his Strength and Beauty with his years, and continuing, as occasion offered, to appear in publick amongst those admiring Virgins, that in a manner doated on him, and often wished to be Mistresses of his Affections; Lucinda the fair Daughter of a Wealthy Shepherd was the chief, who sought by

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many ways to oblige him, and to let him understand her Passion; but Modesty sealing her Lips, he did not, nor would not Interpret her Dumb Signs, but kept on his Merriment, without any regard of her Passion; which made her sigh and grow melancholy, refusing to entertain the Adresses of those that adored her, and devoted on her Beauties, more than she did on those that adorned our Heroick Youth. This suddain alteration made them restless till they knew the Cause of it, which was not long e'er they did from her Virgin Companions, to whom she had dropped some words of her Passion, as likewise by a Letter she had written in order to send to him, by a trusty hand, but had accidentally dropped it, in which were these words:

Dear Aurelius, seeing you do not understand the language of a Love-sick Virgins Eyes, pardon my boldness if with Blushes I have taken the liberty to let you know Lucinda doats on you, and begs you would requite her Love with Love, who for your sake renounces the rest of mankind: then have compassion, or Lucinda must be miserable.

Subscribed Lucinda.

This

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This giving the Amozills a full knowledge, upon whose account they found such cold entertainment from their beloved Mistresses, whom every one of them feared to lose, they bent their study how to remove that Screen that stood between them and their much desired happiness: some were of Opinion, that nothing but the death of Aurelius could effect it; but others of a milder disposition, declared, That it would not only be too much Cruelty, but bring their own Lives in question; therefore considering Woman-kind was generally more taken with the Beauty of the Body, than with that of the Soul, they thought it fit to deform him with Poxen; but where to get it they knew not, and so came to a result, that to disfigure his Face with Moulds might work the same effect, and put an end to the passion of their Dear Lucinda, which they knew not any other ways to extinguish.

*As many times as there are
letters from the drops of
stone she often made some*

CHAP. 8

Richard Jones

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C H A P. IV.

How they attempted to destroy Aurelius,
but were overcome and left naked in
the Wood.

The Plot thus lay'd against our Va-
liant Youth many ways were sought
for an opportunity to put it in practice,
till at last they understood he was gone
to pay a visit to an Aunt of his, who lived
at a Village about two Miles from his
Father's House, and that he must re-
turn by a Wood: This lucky opportu-
nity, as they imagined it, made them
all leap for Joy, there being four in
number, they armed them with mischie-
vous Weapons, and in disguise, pla-
ced themselves in Ambush under a
Thicket of Trees, in the way he must
pass, each Swearing to the other to
keep the thing secret; though they
kept not their Oaths, as you will hear.
Long they had not stayed, but as they
wished, our valiant Youth not dreaming
of such Treachery came on; but hear-
ing the Bushes rustle he made a halt to
see what it meant, when our leaped the
four, and encompassing him, about
they

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they had uttered many big words, and rebiled him at an unseemly rate, they made in to grapple with him; who ignorant of their intent, and scorning to stoop to fear, took the two foremost in either hand, and by main force brought their Heads together, that they rung like a Barber's Balon: so that stunn'd with the valiant knocks, after staggering some paces, down they fell; and having, by this time wrested a Weapon from one of them, he set upon the other two with such fury, that giving them several Wounds, they, when they found the blood run about their Ears, fell on their Knees, and cried for mercy, as did the other, who by this time were recovered from their Trance; yet could not they obtain their Wish till he had Thrashed them into a Confession of the whole matter, and thereby became sensible of the Love Lucinda bore him; and that she might come to the knowledge of what had happened on this occasion, and that their treachery might be rewarded with disgrace, he caused them to unstrip, and with such tackling as their Garments afforded, he bound them to four several Trees stark naked, where these

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These hot-brain'd Robbers took a fit of
Cooling till the morning, which disco-
vering the whole Intrigue, their rash
Valour became for some time after the
mirth of the Country; but most of all, it
pleased the fair Lucinda, whose labour
they lost thereby.

C H A P. V.

How his Father put him an Apprentice to
a Merchant, and the leave he took of
Lucinda.

The Father of Young Aurelius having
received an exact account of all that
had happened, and fearing these Robbers
might find a further Revenge to repair
their Disgrace, as also to prevent any
amours that might happen between him
and Lucinda, to whom he was not wil-
ling he should be married; he took an
opportunity to discourse him about put-
ting himself in a way that might ren-
der him capable of living in Credit in
the World: When finding him pliable
and ready to submit to what he should
propose, he told him it was his pleasure
he should go to London, and there he put
an Apprentice to some Honourable Cal-
ling

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ling that he might be a comfort to him in his old days ; and that it should be in his power to chuse him a Master of any profession. He had not long considered e're he reply'd, That seeing it was his pleasure, he was contented; and for the desire he had to travel and see strange Countries he could fancy none better than a Merchant : To this the old Man agrees, and shortly after he was sent up to London, and placed to a Turkey-Merchant upon London-Bridge, and upon his departure directed these Lines to Lucinda.

Pardon me Beauteous Maid, if Love as yet
No power a Conquest o'er me has to get ;
That you deserve what e'er Love can be-
I must confess, but I alas! must go (stow,
And wander o'er the world e're I can love,
Then be contented & for me ne'er grieve.

Subscribed Aurelius.

This flat denial made the fair Lucinda shed many tears, and bewail her hard fortune, in loving where she was not repayed with an equal passion ; but soon after a Rich Farmers Son offering Service to her, she having with much struggling overcome her former affections, she changed

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changed her Passion, and sacrificed her
Virginity to the pleasure of this new-
come Lover, where Rebelling in excess
of joy, we will leave them, and follow Au-
relius to his new preferment.

C H A P. VI.

How he gained the Love of his Master,
and became enamoured of Dorinda his
fair Daughter.

O Ur Mouth upon his Tryal, proved so
diligent and respectful, that it was
not long e're he was Bound, according
to the custom of the City, and then dou-
bling his Diligence, he won the love of
the whole Family, not doubting any thing
that might please or be for his Master's
Interest, and what time he had to spare,
he employed in Manly Exercise of recre-
ating himself in the Fencing-School, and
in Martial Exploits, gaining every where
the name of a bold and hardy Mouth, and
one that promised great things. In this
happy State he lived near three years;
when Fortune (who is as unconstant as
the wind) conspired to give him some di-
shanté, for Dorinda his Master's Daugh-
ter,

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ter a beautiful Virgin, of about 14 Years of Age, returning from the School where she had been brought up at Board, her Modesty, winning Behaviour, and Charming Graces, by his often gazing on her, prompted him to admire her, and by degrees, to conceive such a Passion for that excellent Creature, that he was no longer Master of his Heart, which his Eyes had given away: A while he smothered the Flame, but in the end it broke out the fiercer, and then he knew experimentally what Lucinda had suffered often; he attempted to discover his Passion, and as often fear'd to offend, staped the words at his Tongues end, and all he could do, was to sigh and stand confounded in her presence; whilst the Innocent Lady would frequently ask the Reason, but had no answer, but what his Eyes delivered in burning glances. Thus he continued for a Month or more; at the end of which, he resolv'd one way or other to make his Passion known, and soon found an opportunity to drop a Letter in the way of the lovely Dorinda, containing these words:

Beauteous Dorinda, after many sighs and eager looks, I have presumed to let you know

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know, if this come to your fair Hand, that
I love you dearer than my own life, and to
be requited with your love, there is not
any thing so hazardous that I would not
undertake for your sake; the inequality I
must confess, is great, yet Love is a Power
obedient to no law but his own: pity me
then as a Lover, that love you above all
Earthly things, and look not on me as
your Father's Servant, but as your Devo-
ted Slave, by whose Smiles I live, and with-
out which, my life must needs be miserable.
Subscribed Aurelius.

This did not a little surprize the beau-
tiful Maid, who considered, that altho'
he being as then a Servant, she might
for all that have cause to love him, yet
highly displeasing to her Parents, if she
should countenance his affections; where-
fore, preferring her Duty and Obedience be-
fore her Fancy, or the Passion of Aurelius,
the next time she met him, her words were,
That she could not but wonder, he should
presume to make Love to her, who was his
Master's Daughter, e're half his time was
expired, and wished him not to make
mention of it any more by Letter or word,
least her Father were made acquainted with
it.

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It, to his prejudice ; and so with a kind of a scornful frown, left him as one in a maze of Grief.

C H A P. VII.

How he got leave to go for Turkey, and what ensued.

Aurelius being thus repulled in his first Love, found himself altogether restless, and that as often as he beheld his beautiful Mistress, his Flame encreased, and his Torture was more and more augmented ; and though he tryed many ways to give way to his labouring mind, he found them in vain, and therefore concluded, unless he were removed from the lovely Object, he must be always miserable ; and perceiving her looks and carriage every day more and more scornful towards him, he resolved to request his Master that he might go for Turkey as his Factor in the next Fleet : which Request of his, was granted without much difficulty, and in a gallant Equipage took leave ; though not without some tears of his scornful Mistress, who by this time, began somewhat to relent, that she
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had so unkindly repulſed his Addreſſes, but
being young and beautiful, and conſide-
ring, that to thoſe advantages her indul-
gent Father would add a large Portion,
her thoughts of a higher advancement,
huddled that care and ſo they parted; the
valiant Aurelius to the Ship, and the La-
dy to her Chamber; where we muſt leave
her (who ſhortly after married a Rich
Merchant) and follow him into Turkey.

CHAP. VIII.

How he arrived in Turkey, and of his Re-
ception: How he overthrew the Turks,
and killed a Turkiſh Prince.

The gallant Aurelius having paſſed the
danger of the Seas, and a while con-
tended with the Storms of Winds and
Lobe, Landed at Conſtantinople, where he
was received with much reſpect, by the
Engliſh Merchants and Factors reſiding
there, and behaved himſelf ſo well in the
management of his Affairs, that he
gained a general Eſteem; and in all this
he forget not to exerciſe his Valour, as
occaſion requir'd; and being by this time
grown to his full ſtrength, he found not
ad

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able to encounter him, though he was too modest to boast of his own Abilities: Now it so fell out, that upon the Marriage of one of the Tuck's Daughters, great Sports and Shows were prepared, and all the valiant Knights summoned to exercise at Tilt and Turnament in Honour of the Ladies and their Countries. This News pleased Aurelius so well, that he resolved to make one amongst them, and shew his Powers for the Honour of the English Nation, against the proud Infidels, and therupon provided Armour, a Horse, Sword and Lance, bearing in his Shield a Golden Phoenix, to signify he was a Subject to a Virgin Queen; and under it Neptune Bridling the Ocean; shewing, that the Seas Sovereignty depended on her Will: for his Armour it was White, signifying Innocence.

Thus bravely Accured, he hasted to the List, to await the Trumpets sound, where all the Nobles and Ladies were seated in their Degrees, clad in Gold and Gems, when on a sudden, three Tucks all mounted, and richly armed, advanced with their Mooned Shields, and with loud voice, bid defiance as the Birds

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groom's Champions, to all the Knights of Christendom; which made Aurelius make to let them know what English Valour was; but perceiving the Champions of other Nations preparing for the Encounter, he forbear till he might be a witness, of their Fortune, and that his Honour might be the greater, in overcoming their overcomers: nor did he miss, for the Turks being of a Monstrous size, and well managed to such Feats of Arms, at the first encounter cast them from their Saddles, and so passed on, and did the like to three others, which made the bold Aurelius believe it was time for him to advance, and thereupon, setting Spurs to his Horse, he met the foremost with a full stroke on his Breast, that he tumbled him with his Heels upward, quite over the Crup, and passing on, struck the second on the Crest, with such force that he broke it, and the Lance entering his Brain, he fell breathless to the ground, which the third perceiving, who was of a Giant-like Stature, came upon him with his Sword, and with a full blow, cut through his Shield, and much bruised him, but he charging furiously upon the Infidel. Leon made him flye the ground, and after divers Wounds, obliged

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obliged him to kiss the Earth, and beg quarter for his Life.

To revenge this disgrace of his Champions, the Turkish Prince, with the leave of his Father in-Law, entered the List in great rage, and desired the bold Aurelius, Swearing by Mahomet, he would Challenge the great Affront, and with many reproachful words, bid him to come on, upon which they set Spurs to their Horses, and met with such fury, that their Launces burst, and whirled in the Air, when the Turkish Prince drew his Sword: but Aurelius neglecting to do the like, made at him with the Truncheon of his Spear, with which he gave him such a weighty blow on the top of his Helmet, that broke his Beak in sunder, and down he fell in a mortal Trance, after which the Turks Strained Complement, and none durst undertake the valiant English Champion.



C H - A P.

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C H A P. IX.

How he destroyed two Lyons prepared to devour him, and had the King's Daughter in Marriage.

The Great Turk upon notice that Prince Grodam his Son-in-law, whom he thought had only been stunn'd, was dead, vowed that Aurelius, whom he called English Boy, should dye the cruellest Death that ever Man dyed, and thereupon sent a strong Guard to seize him, and convey him to Prison, till he consulted what manner of Death to put him to; which in the end was concluded, that he should be cast alive to two Lyons, who (to be the greedier in devouring) were kept fasting many days.

The day of his death, as by appointment being come, and the King his Nobles, and all his Ladies, seated to behold the Execution, the brave Aurelius was brought forth in a Shirt of Cambrick, and Drawers of white Satin, Embroidered with Gold, and a Crimson Cap on his Head, but had scarce time to bow respectfully to the Ladies, who greatly praised his manly Beauty, and began highly
to

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to pity his misfortune, ere the Lyons were let loose, who at the sight of their Prey, casting their Eyes upon him, began to rore horribly, insomuch that the Spectators trembled; and behold Aurelius, whom Death could not daunt laying aside all fear as they came fiercely to him with open Mouth, charged his Hands into their Throats, and ere they had power to get from his strong Arms, forc'd out their Hearts, and lay'd them dead at his feet, demanding of the King what other dangerous Enterprizes they had to put him on, and he would gladly do it for the Honour of his Queen and Countries sake; when immediately the Emperor descending from his Throne, tenderly Embracing him, swearing he was some Angel; withal Pardoning him, and gave him Beauteous Teoraza his Daughter in Marriage, with great Riches, who for his sake, became a Christian; and after spending some time in that place, they both returned to England with great joy, where they lived many Years very Loving and Happy.



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